

On January 1, 2023 Governor Lamont held a news conference to announce his proposals to eliminate gun violence. His approach will not eliminate gun violence and I OPPOSE both H.B. No. 6667 and H.B. No. 6816.

Gun violence is committed by criminals, not by responsible gun owners. According to the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Report dated May 10, 2022:

"Economic conditions in communities contribute to risk for violence, including firearm-related violence, and related racial and ethnic inequities. For example, multiple indicators (e.g., income inequality, unemployment, and housing and economic instability) are associated with risk for homicide and suicide. Youth firearm homicide and suicide have been associated with poverty...."(1)

A common sense approach to stopping gun violence is NOT to take and restrict guns, magazines, ammunition from citizens who are licensed to carry both open and concealed, BUT RATHER to impose strict, mandatory sentences on people who commit crimes with a gun. Also, programs to elevate people who live in "at risk" communities to take responsibility for their actions, including education and work. We must work to eliminate crime in these communities by strict penalties for all criminal activity that includes the use of a firearm.

In the United States, the Second Amendment to the Constitution enshrines the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. In recent years, this right has been increasingly curtailed by state and federal legislation. This has been met with resistance in the courts, with one of the most prominent cases being the Supreme Court case of New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc., et al. v. Bruen, Superintendent of New York State Police, et al. (2019).

The Supreme Court case of NYS Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen, was a challenge to a New York State law that imposed various restrictions on the purchase and possession of firearms. The law prohibited the purchase of more than one firearm within a three-month period and imposed a seven-round magazine limit. The law was challenged by the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. and several individuals on the grounds that it violated their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. The Supreme Court agreed, ruling that the law violated the Second Amendment and concluded that the law was unconstitutional and struck it down.

The Supreme Court's decision in this case reinforces the right of U.S. citizens to unrestricted purchases of the number of firearms, magazine capacity, and ammunition. It reaffirms the right of citizens to keep and bear arms and serves as a reminder to state and federal governments that they cannot pass overly restrictive laws that infringe on this right. This decision is an important milestone in the defense of the Second Amendment and it serves as an important reminder that the Second Amendment must be protected.

Respectfully submitted  
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(1) Vital Signs: changes in Firearm Homicide and Suicide Rates - United States, 2012 - 2020, MMWR, May 13, 2022, Vol.71, No.19